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# Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
---------- 124602
Z 151550Z SEP 76 ZFF-4
FM USDEL SECRETARY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH

S E C R E T SECTO 27078

EXDIS

FOR HABIB AND ATHERTON FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG
SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR TALKS WITH ISRAELIS ON GULF OF SUEZ --
SEPTEMBER 16

REF: TOSEC 270133 (STATE 227633)

1. YOUR NEGOTIATING STRATEGY IS APPROVED, BUT PROPOSED TALKING POINTS ARE TOO DEFENSIVE.

2. YOUR OBJECTIVES ARE TO CONFIRM THAT AMOCO WILL BEGIN DRILLING AT SITE 304.1 WITHOUT HARASSMENT BY SEPTEMBER 21 AND TO CONFIRM SIMILARLY,

TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, THAT ISRAELIS WILL NOT HARASS AMOCO'S CONTINUING OPERATIONS OR LIMITED PROJECTED DRILLING OPERATIONS EAST OF THE MEDIAN

LINE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. DINITZ HAS INDICATED TO ME THAT FIRST POINT CAN BE ACHIEVED. AS YOU PROPOSE, ISRAELIS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE GIVEN ROOM TO INTERPRET ANYTHING YOU SAY AS US ACQUIESENCE IN ISRAELI LEGAL POSITION OR IN ISRAELI DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ.

3. I WANT YOU TO TAKE A VERY FIRM LINE IN OPENING YOUR TALKS WITH DINITZ AND EVRON THURSDAY, MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING TO ACHIEVE TODAY ON UNDERSTANDING ON AMOCO'S OPERATIONS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ.
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-- IT IS DEEPLY DISTRUBING THAT EVENTS SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT OUR GOVERNMENTS TO THIS POINT OF NEAR CONFRONTATION WHERE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES HAVE BEEN TURNED TO MENACING AN AMERICAN COMPANY GOING ABOUT ITS BUSINESS IN A LEGITIMATE WAY.

--WE RECOGINIZE THAT OUR COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERING LEGAL POSITONS ON THIS MATTER, BUT WE CAN IN NO FASHION AGREE THAT THERE IS A LEGITIMATE BASIS FOR THE HARASSMENT WHICH AMOCO HAS EXPERIENCED OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

--OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO RESOLVE TODAY THE MOST URGENT ISSUES ON A PRACTICAL BASIS IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH SHOULD CHARACTERIZE

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ISRAEL MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE
US HAS A FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF AN AMERICAN COMPANY TO PURSUE ITS LEGITIMATE PEACEFUL OPERATIONS.

--OUR BEING HERE TOGETHER TODAY INDICATES TO ME THAT THERE EXISTS A STRONG MUTUAL DESIRE TO AVOID EXAGGERATING WHAT HAS OCCURRED AND TO PUT AN END TO A POTENTIAL CONFRONTATION THAT CAN SERVE NEITHER ISRAELI

NOR AMERICAN INTERESTS. INDEED, SINCE AMOCO'S PLANS ARE MODEST IN SCOPE

THERE SHOUD BE NO DISPUTE OVER THEM.

--WE HAVE TAKEN PAINS IN THE PAST TO EXPLAIN THAT, WHILE WE DO NOT AGREE WITH ISRAEL'S LEGAL POSITION, WE WOULD NOT JOIN IN ANY EFFORT TO PORTRAY AMOCO'S OPERATIONS EAST OF THE ISRAELI-CLAIMED MEDIAN LINE AS EVIDENCE THAT THE SITE LIES OUTSIDE ISRAELI JURISDICTION. HOWEVER, WE MAY BE FORCED TO JOIN THE LEGAL ISSUE PUBLICLY IF WE CANNOT COME TO AN AGREEMENT. AT EVERY STAGE WE HAVE SOUTH TO PROTECT AMOCO'S LEGITIMATE OPERATIONS WITHOUT FORCING ANY PARTY TO PREJUDICE ITS POSITON. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE BEST BASIS FOR ACHIEVING AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

--WE MUST ADDRESS AS A MATTER OF URGENY AMOCO'S RETURN TO SITE 304.1. IF AMOCO IS TO MEET ITS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND AVOID HAVING ITS CONCESSION IN THAT AREA, GRANTED BY EGYPT IN 1964, CAN-CELLED,

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IT MUST BEGIN DRILLING BY SEPTEMBER 21. THIS REQUIRES THAT AMOCO BEGIN

ITS OPERATIONS NO LATER THAN TOMORROW. THE ISSUE WILL NOT ALLOW FOR DELAY. WE UNDERSTAND ISRAEL WANTS TO KNOW FIRST WHAT ELSE AMOCO HAS IN MIND AND ARE PREPARED TO DESCRIBE THAT NOW.

--I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF AMOCO'S DRILLING AT SITE 304.1 BE DISPOSED OF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WELL BEFORE SEPTEMB

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# Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 15 SEP 1976
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